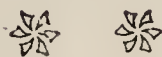


1918,

MERIONETH COUNTY COUNCIL
EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

THE
ANNUAL + REPORT
OF THE
SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER.



E. LEWYS-LLOYD,
COUNTY HEALTH OFFICES,
DOLGELLEY.

E. Williams, Printer, Dolgelley.

OFFICERS.

Mr. Richard Barnett, Education Offices, Towyn, *Secretary*.

Dr. E. Lewys-Lloyd, County Health Offices, Dolgelley, *School Medical Officer*.

Miss R. M. Parry, Dolgelley, Superintendent School Nurse.
(Resigned May, 1819.)

Miss Rachel Davies, Dolgelley, Superintendent School Nurse.
(Appointed May. 1919)

ATTENDANCE OFFICERS.

School District.

BALA	..	Mr. John Thomas Jones. Bala
BARMOUTH	..	Mr. John Lewis, Dyffryn
CORWEN	..	Mr. David Davies, Corwen
DOLGELLEY	..	Mr. John Roberts, Dolgelley
FESTINIOG URBAN	..	Mr. Richard Hughes, Blaenau Festiniog
FESTINIOG RURAL	..	Mr. John Evans, Penrhyndeudraeth
TOWYN	..	Mr. Llywelyn Jones, Penal, Machynlleth

TO THE LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY,
COUNTY OF MERIONETH.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,—

I beg to present you the Annual Report of the Medical Inspection of School Children under the Education (Administrative Provisions) Act, 1907.

Owing to the war the Report is much curtailed, but substantial progress has been made with the schemes for the treatment of the defects found on inspection.

I am glad to be able to report that every school in the County was inspected during the year 1918.

I would call the particular attention of the Authority to some of the problems mentioned in the report:—

School Attendance.
Dental conditions.

I have to thank the Superintendent School Nurse, (Nurse Parry) for very valuable help in the Schools, and with the clerical work in the preparation of this report.

My thanks are due also to my colleagues in the Education Office, and to the Head Teachers for their cordial co-operation.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E. LEWYS-LLOYD.

School Medical Officer.

July, 1919.

MEMBERS OF THE
MERIONETH EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Alderman JOHN JONES, Dolgelley, *Chairman*.

Councillor R. TALFOR PHILLIPS, Festiniog, *Vice Chairman*.

Alderman W. Parry Evans, Blaenau Festiniog

„ Robert Evans, Crynuerth, Bala

„ William Hughes, Dolgelley

„ E. D. Jones, Llandrillo

„ William Owen, Blaenau Festiniog

„ R. E. Roberts, Llanuwchllyn

„ Sir Osmond Williams, Bart., Penrhynd'draeth

„ T. Martin Williams, Barmouth

Councillor L. J. Davies, Llanuwchllyn

„ D. O. Ellis, Llanfachreth

„ Joseph Humphreys, Penrhyn

„ J. Maethlon James, Towyn

„ Ben T. Jones, Blaenau Festiniog

„ David Jones, Llwydiarth

„ Richard Jones, M.D., Blaenau Festiniog

„ R. T. Jones, Penrhyn

„ T. Lloyd Jones, Corwen

„ John Roberts, Barmouth?

„ J. W. Roberts, Bala

„ William Roberts, Llanfrothen

„ E. L. Rowlands, Aberdovey

„ R. T. Vaughan, Bala

„ Joseph Williams, Blaenau Festiniog

„ W. J. Williams, Trawsfynydd

„ W. O. Williams, Corwen

Selected Members : Mrs Burton, Eryl Aran, Bala

Miss Jones. Higher Grade Sch., Bl. Festiniog

Miss Owens, M.A., County School, Bala

Mr. J. H. Davies, M.A., Aberystwyth

Mr. Thomas Jones, B.Sc., Towyn

Mr. J. Lloyd Owen, Bala

Prof. R. W. Phillips, D.Sc. Univ. Coll. Bangor

Sir Henry B. Robertson, Palé, Corwen

Mr. E. Rowland, Penal

NUMBER OF CHILDREN EXAMINED.

GROUP I.---Entrants.				
Age	5 years	6 years	7 years	Total:
Boys	... 171	124	159	454
Girls	... 167	144	133	444
	-----	-----	-----	-----
Total	... 338	268	292	898

GROUP II.—“Intermediate age.”				
Boys	...	...	316	
Girls	...	...	308	

Total	...	...	624	... 624

GROUP III.—“Leavers.”				
Boys	...	...	306	
Girls	...	...	326	

Total	...	...	632	... 632
2 girls of “other ages” were also examined			...	2

Total number examined of “routine ages” ... 2156

GROUP IV.—“Special cases.”				
(a) Those brought forward by Parent or Teachers	...	651		
(b) Special cases re-examined	...	715		
		-----		1366

TOTAL number examined in Schools ... 3522

CLEANLINESS.

In the routine examinations records were made of all the children as to cleanliness, and 1024 Boys, 995 Girls, were found to be clean; 36 Boys, 34 Girls were found to be fairly clean; 16 Boys, 51 Girls were found to be dirty.

I would like to repeat and emphasise what I stated last year, that the want of cleanliness of person and of head is a serious matter in a county like Merioneth.

It must be remembered that there are, practically, no private elementary schools, and, it follows, that about 95 p.c. of the children of school age attend the public elementary Schools.

The Local Education Authority should, therefore, insist upon a high standard of cleanliness among the School children, if only for the protection of those children whose parents send them to School clean.

Every case found verminous was excluded. The cases with nits in the head were referred to the District Nurses to follow up, and to advise the parents.

CLOTHING AND FOOTGEAR.

Records were made by Head Teachers in all cases, and are as follows:—

	Boys		Girls		Total
Good	... 1063	...	1071	...	2134
Fair	... 5	...	1	...	6
Bad	... 8	...	8	...	16

It would be a fairer index if, in future, Head Teachers would record the condition of clothing and footgear "as the average condition of the children during the year," and not as found on the day of Medical Inspection or Weighing.

NUTRITION.

	Boys		Girls
Good or Normal Nutrition	... 1036	...	1052
Below Normal	... 40	..	28
Specially examined and found to be suffering from defective nutrition	... 27	...	13

The percentage of children whose nutrition was found below normal is 3·1. A similar percentage was found in 1917. The attention of parents is called to this condition and advice given.

DENTAL CONDITIONS.

The standards adopted were:—

Good—when the mouth contained no more than two carious teeth.

Bad—when the mouth contained more than two and less than Five carious teeth.

Very Bad—when the mouth contained more than five carious teeth.

Number of children at routine ages whose teeth were found

	Boys	Girls	Total	%
Good	... 662	770	1432	66
Bad	.. 257	303	560	26
Very Bad	157	107	264	8

The larger number of younger children examined in 1918 increase the percentage of "good" teeth, but the amount of dental disease in children over 8 years of age is very serious.

The importance of sound teeth is urgent at the present time, but it is almost a hopeless task to impress upon parents and others the importance of this.

There are very few children in the Elementary Schools of Merioneth who systematically clean their teeth.

Can not a child be taught to bestow at least the same care on his teeth that he is taught to bestow on his hands and face? and, instead of being left to the "merciless discipline of toothache" he may be guided into preventive habits, which at school age is possible. Discipline thus begun has every chance of securing really good results.

ENLARGED TONSILS AND ADENOIDS

	Boys	Girls	Total
Number of children examined at routine ages ...	1076	1080	2156
Number found to be suffering from Enlarged Tonsils ...	91	92	183
Number found to be suffering from Adenoids ...	13	17	30
Number to be found suffering from Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids ...	185	203	388

The 183 children found to be suffering from simple enlargement of the Tonsils were not recommended for treatment beyond painting the throat, in some cases, as I was of the opinion that the enlargement was either so slight as not to need further treatment, or due to some acute inflammatory condition which would subside.

The remaining cases were those in which the enlargement was thought to be permanent and tended to affect the child's physical well-being, and, these in my opinion, should be operated upon by excision of the tonsils.

In 1917 the Authority decided to institute a scheme for the treatment of Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids and for the examination of cases of defective vision, and resolved to establish treatment clinics in various parts of the County.

Of the 9 cases of varying degree of permanent defect, 5 had some vision and glasses would not benefit; 1 requires prolonged treatment under the Authority's scheme of treatment of Minor Ailments; 2 recommended for operation, 1 (it has been since operated upon); 1 special School advised.

The glasses ordered are obtained by the Authority under contract, and are sold to the parents at cost price. If the parents are too poor to pay the glasses are supplied free of cost. Of the 167 glasses ordered by Dr. Stockdale they were provided to 164 children by the end of the year. The prescription of the glasses are numbered, and carefully filed at the County Offices.

It is with pleasure that I state that the Authority can be heartily congratulated on the first year's work of its Treatment Clinic, it has been effective and satisfactory, and though the scheme is relatively expensive for a County with a small rateable value, I am convinced that the results justify the appointments made, and the expenses incurred.

VACCINATION.

Of the 2156 children at routine ages the vaccination marks were noted in 2151 cases.

			Boys	Girls	Total
Number with 5 marks	...		7	5	12
„ 4 „	...		514	521	1035
„ 3 „	...		103	135	238
„ 2 „	...		148	146	294
„ 1 „	...		56	58	114
„ 0 „	...		245	213	458
„ not stated	...		3	2	5
			1076	1080	2156

20% of the children examined are not protected against small pox by vaccination.

DISEASES OF THE HEART AND CIRCULATION.

9 cases of heart disease were found among the routine children, and 6 were brought up for re-examination from previous years. These cases were referred to their own doctor, but advice as to physical exercise is always given to the Head Teachers.

TUBERCULOSIS, 1918.

Analysis of cases examined by the Tuberculosis Officers of children up to 14 years of age.

	Number of cases referred by S.M.O.	Total number of cases examined including contacts.	Number found to be suffering from Tuberculosis		Number found not to be suffering from active Tuberculosis.	Number under observation Dec. 31, 1918, pending diagnosis.	Numbers treated			
			Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary			Sanatorium	Hospital	Dispensary	Domiciliary
BOYS	11	16	1	5	9	1	...	1	2	2
GIRLS	16	22	1	1	17	3	1	...	1	...
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	27	38	2	6	26	4	1	1	3	2

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

The problem of better school attendance has been specially considered by district managers, and I have attended some of the meetings.

I wrote last year on the subject, and would be glad if the problem were considered as a whole for the County, so as to secure uniformity of procedure.

As I stated in last year's report, "It would make for better school attendance if the Local Educational Authority were to take into consideration and frame regulations for the closer co-ordination of the School Attendance Department and the School Medical Service the closer this co-ordination the more efficient and satisfactory becomes the work undertaken by each."

The attendance officer can assist the School Medical Officer (1) By notifying all cases of non-notifiable infectious disease which he meets with. (2.) By notifying all children absent from school on medical grounds. (3) By notifying cases of children who are alleged permanently unfit to attend school.

The Medical Officer of the Board of Education in his Report for 1916, writes as follows on this question :—

"The work of the School Medical Service has emphasised the fact that *the problem of School Attendance is, in the main, a medical problem.* This was not originally the case, but the efficient working of the School Attendance Department, in association with other factors, has in a large measure eliminated those causes of absence from school which formerly operated, and there can be no doubt that the proportion of absences due to medical or alleged medical causes has steadily increased, as the average percentage of school attendance has increased. It will probably be conceded that the most suitable visitor to send to the home of a child absent from school on alleged medical grounds is a woman health visitor. The information sought by the Local Education Authority is in regard *first* to the genuineness of the allegation, *secondly* to the nature of the ailment, and *thirdly* to the probable duration of the absence from school. For the determination of these points such an officer is peculiarly suited."

I am convinced this problem is a pressing one, and I hope the Authority will take immediate steps to secure the necessary co-ordination.

CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS.

A large number of the schools were closed during the year 1918 on account of the prevalence of the epidemic of Influenza.

BALA SCHOOL DISTRICT.

<i>School.</i>	<i>closed.</i>	
Bala N.P.	.. Oct 3 to	Nov 15
Bala Council	.. Oct 28	Nov 15
Celyn	.. Oct 10	Oct 18
Llawrybettws	.. Nov 4	Nov 15
Llangower	.. Nov 5	Nov 15
Sarnau	.. Nov 6	Nov 15
Llandderfel	.. Nov 8	Nov 15
Cwmtirmynach	.. Nov 11	Dec 6
Parc	.. Dec 4	Dec 24

BARMOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT.

Barmouth	.. Oct 28	Nov 22
do.	.. Dec 9	Dec 24
Fairbourne	.. Oct 28	Nov 8
Llanbedr	.. Nov 4	Nov 8
Llanfair	.. Nov 4	Nov 15
Harlech	.. Nov 4	Nov 15
Cwmnantcol	.. Nov 25	Dec 24
Dyffryn	.. Oct 22	Nov 15
Llwyngwrl	.. Oct 28	Nov 15
do.	.. Nov 28	Dec 24
Bontddu	.. Nov 4	Dec 24

CORWEN SCHOOL DISTRICT.

Cynfal	.. Oct 21	Nov 1
Bettws	.. Oct 28	Nov 8
Cynwyd	.. Oct 30	Nov 8

DOLGELLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT.

Dolgelley Infants	.. Oct 28	Nov 15
Dolgelley Council	.. Nov 4	Nov 15
Henfelin	.. Nov 4	Nov 15
Dolgelley N.P.	.. Nov 7	Nov 15
do.	.. Nov 28	Dec 24
Aberangell	.. Oct 22	Nov 8
Dinas Mawddwy	.. Nov 8	Dec 24
Islaw'rdref	.. Oct 21	Nov 15
Ganllwyd	.. Nov 4	Dec 24
Cwm	.. Nov 6	Dec 24

School. *closed.*

Llanelltyd	.. Nov 11 to	Dec 24
Llanfachreth	.. Nov 21	Dec 24
Brithdir	.. Nov 22	Dec 24
Bryncoedifor	.. Dec 2	Dec 24

FESTINIOG URBAN.

Tanygrisiau	.. Nov 27	Dec 24
Festiniog	.. Nov 27	Dec 24
Slate Quarries	.. Nov 27	Dec 24
Glanypwll	.. Dec 2	Dec 24
Manod	.. Dec 15	Dec 24

FESTINIOG RURAL.

Penrhyn	.. Oct 7	Nov 8
Minffordd	.. Oct 14	Nov 8
Talsarnau	.. Oct 21	Nov 22
Llanfrothen	.. Oct 23	Nov 22
Rhyd	.. Oct 23	Nov 22
Croesor	.. Oct 28	Nov 22
Brontecwyn	.. Oct 28	Nov 15
Bronaber	.. Oct 29	Nov 22
Gelilydan	.. Oct 29	Nov 15
Trawsfynydd C.S.	.. Oct 29	Nov 22
Trawsfynydd N.P.	.. Oct 29	Nov 22
Tynant	.. Oct 30	Nov 22
Maentwrog	.. Nov 4	Nov 15

TOWYN SCHOOL DISTRICT.

Bryncrug	.. Oct 7	Nov 1
Towyn	.. Oct 21	Nov 8
Aberdovey Council	.. Oct 28	Nov 8
do.	.. Nov 27	Dec 24
Aberdovey N.P.	.. Oct 29	Nov 8
do.	.. Nov 27	Dec 24
Corris	.. Oct 25	Nov 8
Aberllefenni	.. Oct 28	Nov 15
Tynyberth	.. Nov 5	Nov 15
Llanegryn	.. Dec 2	Dec 24
Rhoslefain	.. Dec 2	Dec 24
Pantperthog	.. Oct 24	Nov 8

Area—MERIONETH.

Table I.—NUMBER OF CHILDREN INSPECTED

1st January, 1918 to 31st December, 1918.

A. "CODE" GROUPS.—Entrants.

Age	3	4	5	5	Other ages	Total
Boys ..	..	..	171	124	159	454
Girls ..	..	..	167	144	133	444
Totals ..	..	..	338	268	292	898

INTERMEDIATE GROUPS.—Leavers.

Age	8	12	13	14	Other ages	Total	Grand Total
Boys ..	316	306	..	..	..	622	1076
Girls ..	308	326	..	..	2	636	1080
Totals ..	624	632	..	..	2	1258	2156

B. GROUPS OTHER THAN "CODE." *

(1)	Intermediate Group (other than 8 years.) (2)	Special Cases.† (3)	Re-Examinations (i.e. No of Children Re-Examined.) (4)
Boys ..	..	694	..
Girls ..	..	672	..
Totals ..	..	1366	..

* In areas where routine inspections have been suspended and the "ailing children" basis adopted, the number of children inspected should be entered in column (3).

† Under this head should be included all special cases which were medically inspected during the year, whether the inspection took place in the schools or at the inspection clinic or from whatever source the cases derived.

Table II.—RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND IN THE COURSE OF MEDICAL INSPECTION IN 1918.

DEFECT OR DISEASE.				Code Groups.		Specials.	
				Number referred for Treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for Treatment.	Number referred for Treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for Treatment.
(1)				(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	Uncleanliness :—						
	Head	...		67	70	14	
	Body	...					
<i>Skin</i> ...	Scabies	...		81		5	
	Impetigo	...					
	Other Disease	..					
<i>Eye</i> ...	Defective Vision and Squint	...		105	220	66	55
	External Eye Disease	...		82		35	
<i>Ear</i> ...	Defective Hearing	...		7	1	6	6
	Ear Disease	...		8		3	
<i>Teeth</i> ...	Dental Disease (see N.B. (2) below)						
<i>Nose and Throat</i>	Enlarged Tonsils	...		39	26	45	
	Adenoids	...		4			
<i>Heart and Circulation</i>	Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids			160	240		
	Heart Disease :—						
	Organic	...		3		3	
	Functional	..		6		3	
	Anæmia	...					
<i>Lungs...</i>	Pulmonary Tuberculosis :—						
	Definite	...		2			4
	Suspected	...		16			
	Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis :—						
	Glands	...		6			
	Bones and Joints						
	Other Forms	...					

N.B.—(1) In areas where the routine medical inspection of the groups of children prescribed by the Code is temporarily suspended, and the examination of ailing children of all ages is undertaken instead, a note should be made to this effect, and the particulars should be given under the head of "specials" in Columns (4) and (5).

(2) It will be observed that headings "Clothing" and "Footgear" have been omitted. A short reference should be made to these in the Report. As regards "Teeth," particulars should be given in the statements of the working of schemes of dental inspection and treatment where a scheme is in operation.

(3) Under the head "Specials," (see Columns (4) and (5) of Table) should be included all special cases which were medically inspected during the year, whether the inspection took place in the schools or at the inspection clinic and from whatever source the cases were derived.

Table III.—TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF CHILDREN DURING 1918.
Area—MERIONETH.

Condition.	No. of defects found for which Treatment was considered necessary.			No. of defects for which no report is available	No. of defects treated.	Results of Treatment			Per centage of defects treated.
	From previous Year.	New†	Total			Remedied	Improved	Un- changed	
Clothing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Footwear	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cleanliness of Head	20	81	101	2	99	18	67	14	96
Cleanliness of Body	24	62	86	2	84	22	55	7	97
Nutrition	15	48	63	26	31	8	16	7	...
Nose and Throat	261	401	662	89	160	147	13	...	24
External Eye Disease	35	82	117	2	117	37	58	22	100
Ear Disease	3	9	12	4	8	2	4	2	66
Teeth	73	41	114	...	17	3	6	8	15
Heart and Circulation	6	9	15	12	3	1	2	...	20
Lungs	6	6	12	6	6	0	5	1	50
Nervous System	1	2	3	...	3	...	3	...	100
Skin	5	81	86	5	81	66	9	6	94
Deformities	12	2	14	...	...	...	...	..	...
Tuberculosis, non-pulmonary...	19	20	39	12	27	2	17	8	69
Speech	3	1	4	4	...	...	...	...	...
Mental Condition	13	...	13	13	...	...	...	...	...
Vision and Squint	154	292	446	...	206	171	19	16	46
Hearing	12	7	19	...	13	6	7	...	68
TOTAL	662	1144	1806	177	855	483	281	91	

+ The return should show comprehensively all defects found during the year, from whatever source derived, which required treatment.